



**NUNATUKAVUT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION NO: 2024.01.16.03**

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***Subject: Mandate to secure NunatuKavut Inuit rights and recognition at Academic Institutions***

**WHEREAS** NunatuKavut Inuit are the beneficiaries of the British–Inuit Treaty of 1765, entered into by our ancestors in our territory at Chateau Bay on the South Coast;

**AND WHEREAS** NunatuKavut Inuit have a long and unbroken connection to our land, ice, and waters, and have survived and persisted despite attempts by outsiders to destroy, deny, and repress our culture;

**AND WHEREAS** NunatuKavut Inuit are being subjected to a campaign of misinformation and false statements about the authenticity of NunatuKavut Inuit rights and identity;

**AND WHEREAS** NunatuKavut Inuit possess the inherent right to self-determine our Inuit identity according to our laws and traditions, and as reflected in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People*;

**AND WHEREAS** NunatuKavut Community Council (“NCC”) is the representative governing body for the Inuit of NunatuKavut, which means ‘Our Ancient Land’;

**AND WHEREAS** the NCC has already been recognized as Indigenous by the courts, the federal government, and the government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and has entered negotiations under Canada’s current rights recognition policy;

**AND WHEREAS** the NCC has genealogical, anthropological and archaeological evidence to support Inuit rights and identity, occupation and cultural continuity;

**AND WHEREAS** NunatuKavut Inuit have been fighting for our rights for generations and we have been impacted by colonialism in ways like other Indigenous peoples in Canada;

**AND WHEREAS** the provincial government issued a formal apology to NunatuKavut Inuit who attended residential schools and their families;

**AND WHEREAS** the NCC has strengthened its work around education with a memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) with the province on education, which cites a commitment to do better for future generations;

**AND WHEREAS** the NCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Canada in September of 2019 which affirms that Canada recognizes NunatuKavut Inuit as an Indigenous Collective capable of holding section 35 Aboriginal Rights, for the purposes of entering into discussions regarding rights recognition and self-determination;

**AND WHEREAS** NunatuKavut Inuit are aware of the important national conversations taking place relating to individuals who may fraudulently claim Indigenous identity – however, these conversations, and concerns underpinning them, have no application to NunatuKavut Inuit whatsoever;

**AND WHEREAS** some academic institutions have, or are in the process of, developing processes and policies to confirm the veracity of claims of Indigenous identity by students, faculty, and others;

**AND WHEREAS** some of these processes and policies have been created, or applied, to the detriment or exclusion of NunatuKavut Inuit;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** NunatuKavut Inuit reject the authority of any academic institution to adjudicate, decide upon, or dictate the Indigeneity of a collective of people;

**AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** NunatuKavut Inuit reject the validity of any policy or process that purports to support any such authority;

**AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** NCC take all necessary steps, inclusive of legal, political and on the ground actions to secure NunatuKavut Inuit rights and recognition at Academic Institutions, and for policies and procedures which recognize the inherent right of self-determination of NunatuKavut Inuit.

**Moved by: Jim Holwell, Vice President**

**Seconded By: Boyce Turnbull, Member at Large**